

BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – DECEMBER 18, 2007

- John Carman called the Committee to order at 6:10 p.m.
- Phil Alperson gave the following updates:
 - Following the release of the DRAFT State BRAC Action Plan in November, the Committee sent a letter to County Executive Leggett expressing its concerns. Based on that letter, Mr. Leggett sent his own letter of concern to the Governor. The FINAL version of the State BRAC Action Plan, released on December 17th, included changes that demonstrated that Mr. Leggett's concerns had been understood. The Final version of the Plan does mention specific short-term mitigations that were requested by the County. The County will need to work to include long-term projects in future Consolidated Transportation Plans CTPs.
 - The County Executive received a letter from NNMC declining to extend the public review period. However, NNMC briefed the BRAC Committee and provided copies of the Draft EIS on December 6th, 8 days before the official release.
 - The Draft EIS was published in the Federal; register on Dec. 14, initiating a 45-day review and comment period that will close on January 28, 2008.
 - Hard copies of the Draft EIS do not include 11 technical appendices to the Transportation Study (Appendix C). These appendices are on-line.
 - MDOT Secretary Porcari sent a letter acknowledging DPWT Director Art Holmes' letter listing short-term projects for which the County seeks State funding.
 - NNMC plans "public hearings" Jan. 9 & 10, 6-8:0 pm at Pooks Hill Marriott. According to NNMC representatives, there will be opportunities for citizens to make comments and ask questions in a public setting.
 - Shahriar Etemadi of MNCPPC reported that the Park and Planning Commission will have a public hearing on January 10th, at a time to be determined. John Carman plans to provide testimony on behalf of the BRAC Committee.
 - MNCPPC will brief the County Council in a public session the week of Jan. 14th.
 - Mohammad Siddique reported on the mid-January "BRAC Growth Summit" in St. Louis. County representatives included Mohammad and Sande Brecher of DPWT and Shahriar Etemadi of MNCPPC. NNMC BRAC is indeed the most urban BRAC of all, and is the last to receive a Draft EIS. Many other BRACS have completed the EIS process and are already under construction. Nonetheless,

NNMC BRAC must conform to the same 2011 deadline as all the others, so we are relatively far behind schedule.

- The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently published a report on cost overruns throughout the BRAC process. The Walter Reed closure and realignment to NNMC and Fort Belvoir is among the costliest BRAC effort @\$1.7 Billion over budget. Congressional hearings were held but are unlikely to reverse the course of any BRAC action
- Federal earmark for \$2,010,000 appears to have survived the Omnibus Appropriations conference bill. This is for the BRAC-related MD355 corridor study, thanks to our Senators and Congressman for their leadership.
- Ollie Oliveria and Andrew Gutberlet, representing NNMC, discussed the distribution of hard copies of the Draft EIS and will make CD-ROMS available to the Committee. Congratulations to Andrew on the recent birth of his daughter!
- Shahriar Etemadi reported that MNCPPC will hold a public hearing on the Draft EIS on January 10th, 2008, at a time to be determined. He discussed MNCPPC's initial reactions to the Draft EIS.
 - It is a generally comprehensive document, although it contains minor errors that need to be corrected
 - MNCPPC supports the elements and goals of the Transportation Management Plan described in Appendix C, but the plan contains few specific operational details.
 - MNCPPC urges pedestrian/bike safety to be a high priority. The Draft EIS mentions the need for some form of pedestrian crossing at MD355. MNCPPC strongly believes that a Metro tunnel is needed on the east side of MD355.
 - Land for fringe parking for shuttle buses may be available at I-495 @ MD185, but other places need to be identified.
 - Proposals to widen MD355 at NNMC must undergo thorough feasibility studies. There are proposals to preserve green space and setbacks that could conflict with widening, and it is unclear what level of traffic would be mitigated by widening.
 - The proposed Beltway off-ramp to NNMC also needs a feasibility study.
 - MNCPPC does not identify specific historic preservation issues at NNMC. Although the campus has been designated historic by the county, only the Tower is on the National Register of Historic Places.
 - BRAC expansion at NNMC exceeds the BCC Master Plan. These impacts need further assessment.
 - EIS trip generation statistics and methodology need much greater detail and explanation – exactly who are the campus visitors, where do they come from and what is their purpose for visiting the campus? It is difficult to devise an appropriate transportation management plan without this information.
 - More intersections need to be studied. Failure of intersections also depends on availability of alternate routes and alternative means of transportation.

- While most of MNCPPC's comments related to transportation, there are also environmental concerns:
 - Concerns about Stoney Creek stream, including the need for a buffer area;
 - Concerns about forest and woodland conservation; and
 - Demolition of existing parking structures raises serious environmental concerns regarding air, water and chemical pollution, and disposal of waste.
- John asked each Committee member to briefly share their initial reactions to the Draft EIS. Comments included:
 - Keeping the feasibility study of the Beltway exit a priority.
 - The lack of specifics for a Transportation Management Plan (TMP);
 - Reserving TMD plans for an eventual NNMC Master Plan is inadequate, because the Master Plan is an independent process; such details should be included in the Final EIS.
 - Lack of details about transit options, including shuttle buses or enhanced Ride-On. Will NNMC include shuttle buses in its TMP?
 - No mention of long-range projects that ultimately need to be added to the State's Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP).
 - More details needed on pedestrian and bike safety measures: Metro entrance, or underpass, or overpass, or what?
 - Concern that intersections regarded as "failing" without BRAC will not be improved, even after BRAC adds significant new traffic.
 - Failure to consider cumulative long-term impacts of all recent and forthcoming development in the region.
 - Purple Line issues not addressed
 - Impacts of on-base mitigations on neighborhoods. For example, increased access to Jones Bridge Road gates may impact neighborhoods along Jones Bridge Road.
 - Lack of a Master Plan fails to put this EIS in larger context.
 - Outpatient housing questions remain: Will there be a need to identify off-campus housing opportunities and transportation for NNMC patients and family visitors?
 - Lack of adequate opportunity for hearings or citizen evaluation; need to fully publicize hearings that will be conducted,
 - More detail needed about potential air, water and noise pollution impacts and mitigations from construction and demolition.
 - Concerns about construction phase on campus – where will workers park? Will neighborhoods be kept fully informed about construction issues?
 - Would widening MD355 solve traffic problems, or just move the problems to the next intersection?
 - Mitigations must consider the heavy volume of patient visits that will come by car, no matter what.
 - Affect of cut-through traffic on local roads and arteries.
- John initiated a discussion of how the Committee should proceed, with the goal of providing the Committee's report to County Executive Leggett in a timely fashion so he

can incorporate the Committee's views into his official response to the Draft EIS by January 28, 2008.

- **Consensus issues were:**
 - Supporting mitigation of troubled intersections identified in EIS
 - Support a feasibility study for a Beltway exit ramp;
 - Provide greater detail for a Transportation Management Plan;
 - Address construction and demolition issues relative to air, water and noise pollution
 - Address on-campus mitigations that would not be included in a TMP, such as providing access to shuttle buses.
- **Schedule for Committee work:**
 - **Jan. 3:** If possible, Committee members should provide outline or bullet points to Phil.
 - **Jan 5:** Meeting Saturday, Jan. 5th, 9:00 a.m. at BCC Services Center. Committee will fully develop outline/bullet points.
 - **Jan. 10:** Deadline for Committee members to provide final comments to Phil.
 - **Jan. 10:** John Carman will testify on behalf of Committee at MNCPPC
 - **Jan. 12:** Phil will circulate Draft Committee Comment to Members for review.
 - **Jan, 15:** Phil will circulate Final Committee Comment to County Executive Leggett
 - **Jan. 18** (regular 3rd Tuesday meeting): Open discussion with community about EIS
 - **Jan. 28:** Count Executive Leggett will submit his formal response to the Draft EIS, drawing upon the Committee Comment and other comments he receives.
- **Format for Comments:** Phil said that Committee comments should be drafted in the same order as **Section 4.0 of the Draft EIS, on Environmental Consequences**. Section 4.0 is divided into twelve units, listed below. Committee members do not have to comment on every section:
 - **4.1 Geology, Topography, and Soils**
 - **4.2 Water Resources**
 - **4.3 Biological Resources**
 - **4.4 Air Quality**
 - **4.5 Noise**
 - **4.6 Utility Infrastructure**
 - **4.7 Transportation**
 - **4.8 Cultural Resources**
 - **4.9 Land Use and Zoning**
 - **4.10 Socioeconomics**
 - **4.11 Human Health and Safety**
 - **4.12 Cumulative Impacts**

- **Public Comments:**
 - Harvey Kaplan of the Montgomery County chapter of MOAA (Military Officers Assn of America) mentioned the need to keep engineering concerns (i.e. Army Corps of Engineers) in mind because they will be largely responsible for on-campus constriction.
 - George Oberlander of Huntington Parkway expressed his string concerns about the Draft EIS, that it is inadequate in many respects. The traffic study is deficient in many respects; it does not take into account impacts on neighborhoods nor does it include a "No Build" analysis as required by NEPA. LOS (Level of Service) charts do not show existing LOS, so there is no context to projected LOS.
 - Delegate Bill Bronrott urges all Committee members to lobby the Governor to be sure to include BRAC mitigations in his FY09 budget to be submitted to the General Assembly.
 - Andy Scott of MDOT relayed a message form the Lieutenant Governor that Committee concerns regarding the Draft BRAC Action Plan were heard and taken very seriously, and are reflected in the Final BFAC Action Plan.
 - Ken Strickland of the Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Assn. mentioned his concerns about impacts and mitigations along Jones Bridge Road and about the debate over the Purple Line.
 - Judy Daniel of MNCPPC expressed her strong concern about the housing issue and the lack of detail in the EIS about the number of visits and expected length of stay.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
- The next Committee meeting will be Saturday, Jan 5, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. at the BCC Services Center

Committee members in attendance, December 18, 2007:

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator
 Jon Alterman, Bethesda Parkview Citizens Assn.
 Pat Baptiste
 John Carman, Committee Chairman
 Chuck Floyd
 Leslie Weber, for Brian Gragnolati, Suburban Hospital
 Shahriar Etemadi, for Royce Hanson, MNCPPC
 Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Assn.
 Billy Hwang, MDOT BRAC Coordinator
 Ginanne Italiano, GBCCC
 Richard Lashley, Bethesda Urban Partnership
 Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Assn.
 William McGlockton, Stone Ridge School
 Deborah Michaels, Glenbrook Village Homeowners Assn.
 Patrick O'Neil, BCC Chamber of Commerce
 Michael Plantamura, Chevy Chase View

Ron Spalding, MDOT
Patrick O'Neill, GBCCCC
Mohammad Siddique, DPWT
David Smith, Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board
Kristen Hohman, for Paul Thaler, Locust Hill Citizens Assn.
Melanie Wenger, County Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Ex-officio:

Delegate Bill Bronrott
Andrew Gutberlet, NNMC
Joan Kleinman (Rep. Van Hollen)
Rebecca Lord (Councilmember Berliner)
Captain Mike Malanoski, NNMC
David "Ollie" Oliveria, NNMC
Sue Tabach (Sen. Mikulski)
Ken Reichard (Sen. Cardin)

Other attendees

Alex Amdur
Gerald Cichy, MD Transit Administration
Dennis Coleman, NIH
R.A. Dancis
Leslie Hamm, BCC Services Center
Richard Hoyer (Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg)
Greg Humes, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Assn.
Lt. T. Jacecks (sp?), Montgomery County Police
Tracey Johnston, Action Committee for Transit (ACT)
Col. Harvey Kaplan, USA retired, Montgomery County Military Officers Assn. of America
David Lewis, MD DBED
Jim Noone, The Washington Group
George Oberlander, Huntington Parkway Citizens Assn.
P. Pradel, Spruce Tree Village Homeowners Assn.
Julie Woepke, MD DBED Military Affairs
Mal Rivkin
Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Assn.
Philip Wexler
Stephanie Yanovitz, State Highway Administration